Hiring of US lobbyists by India

556. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) the details of contract of hiring U.S. lobbyists by the Indian Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is giving special attention to strengthen its case;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds provided by Government for hiring lobbyists during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Contract for hiring a lobbyist entails signature of an Agreement between the two parties which contains the broad parameters of areas of responsibility, institutions to be targeted, method of functioning, length of contract, fees and nature of payment. Selection of a lobbyist is preceded by careful scurtiny of firms short-listed on the basis of their expertise, level of access and cost effectiveness. The Government of India presently has contract with M/s Verner-Liipfert Bernhard-Mc Pherson and Hand till December 2000, on payment of US $ 50,000 per month.

(b) and (c) According to published information, the Government of Pakistan has engaged two lobying firms in the US namely Hopper, Owen, Gould & Winburn and Patton Boggs, for the promotion of its interests, including the projection of its viewpoint on Kashmir.

(d) Funds provided by the Government for hiring lobbyists during the last five years have been to the tune of US $4,014,436 (Rs. 156,861,516). A year-wise statement is placed below:

11—15 GIPMR/2001

Statement

Financial Year	US $	Ind. Rupees
95-96	$ 672,500	Rs. 22,508,575
96-97	$1,000,000	Rs. 35,513,175
97-98	$ 541,936	Rs. 20,316,516
98-99	$ 900,000	Rs. 38,341,250
99-00	$ 900,000	Rs. 40,182,000
TOTAL:	$ 4,014,436	Rs. 156,861,516

f13Government's reaction to coup in Fiji

557. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent coup forcibly bringing down the democratically elected Government in Fiji; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 19 May, 2000 a group of armed men under George Speight took Prime Minister Mehendra Chaudhry and several members of his Cabinet as hostage. PM Chaudhry was removed, the 1997 constitution of Fiji was abrogated and martial law declared in Fiji. On July 13, after an agreement signed earlier between the Military and Speight, the hostage including PM Chaudhry, were released.

The Government of India has called for restoration of a democratic and constitutional Government in Fiji within the framework of 1997 Constitution. We have also been working strenuously through the International Community (Commonwealth and countries like Australia, New Zealand and UK) to achieve these objectives.